and steep fall in prices of cotton; if so whether Government are considering export of cotton this year;

(b) whether Cotton Corporation of India has been asked to purchase cotton of fair average quality ; if so, the prices fixed therefor ;

(c) what is the quantity and quality earmarked for export and how much quantity has been exported so far and the agencies assigned for export of cotton; and

(d) whether private firms have also been allotted quotas for export; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) In view of record bumper crop and its consequent effect on prices the Govt. have released a quota of 10 lakh bales of staple cotton as against 1 lakh bales released last year.

(b) The Cotton Corporation of India has purchased cotton at the prevailing market prices because there has been virtually no occasion to undertake price support operations.

(c) Apart from the quota for staple cotton quotas for 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi 9 thousand bales of Assam Commilla, 50 thousand bales of soft cotton waste and 1 lakh Kgs. of hard cotton waste have been released for exports through the CCI State Federations and Trade. Against this the quantity registered till 2nd March '90 was 4.39 lakh bales and 1020 Kgs.

(d) Private trade has been allocated a quota of 50 thousand bales of Bengal Deshi 1.5 lakh bales of staple cotton and the entire quotas for yellow pickings, Assam Commilla, soft cotton waste and hard cotton waste.

Export performance

368. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government reviewed export performance during the first half of the current financial year ; and

(b) if so the target set for the first half of the current financial year and the achievement made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Export targets are setton financial year basis and the target set for the fiscal year 1989-90 is Rs. 28025 crores. According to the provisional trade statistics India's exports amounted to Rs. 12330.71 crores during April—September, 1989 and Rs. 19254.85 crores during April—December 1989 (the latest period for which the data is available) which are 37.2 per cent and 38.3 per cent higher respectively as compared to the corresponding periods of previous year.

Investment by Non-Resident Indians

369. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) what is the total investment made by the Non-Resident Indians in the country from January 1984 till date, State-wise ; and

(b) what is number of Non-Resident Indians who have made such investment during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) ; (a) and (b) The information has been called for from the Reserve Bank of India and will be furnished as soon as received.